

## Exhibit 55

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# Ohio gets \$950,000 in OxyContin settlement

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By Roger Mezger

The maker of OxyContin has agreed to pay \$19.5 million to settle charges by Ohio and 25 other states that the company failed to adequately disclose the risk of abuse and misuse associated with the pain-killer.

In a statement, the Connecticut-based company confirmed the settlement but denied that inserts packaged with OxyContin failed to disclose risks.

The Ohio attorney general's office announced Tuesday that the settlement would require Purdue Pharma Inc. to refrain from marketing the narcotic, which is twice as potent as morphine, for anything other than its intended purposes. It also agreed not to sponsor events if it knows a speaker plans to recommend use of OxyContin for unintended purposes and to avoid giving bonuses to sales staff based solely on the amount of OxyContin prescribed.

Earlier this year, the company settled more than 1,000 cases brought by people who claimed to have been harmed when they took OxyContin and families whose relatives died after taking the drug. At the behest of the FDA, which has required stronger warning labels for the drug, the company agreed earlier to provide education programs and to discipline sales representatives who improperly promoted the drugs, according to a GAO report.

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Ohio's share of the multi-state settlement is \$950,000, which will go into the attorney general's consumer protection fund.

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